

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 27-53 are pending in this case. No claims have been amended, canceled, or added herewith.

In the preliminary amendment filed November 18, 2003, Applicants inadvertently referred to the Abstract as being on page 34, lines 2-15. The Abstract is actually on page 148, lines 2-15, and Applicants request that it be replaced with the amended Abstract submitted herewith.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for examination. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Registration No. 28,870
Attorney of Record
Katherine D. Pauley
Registration No. 50,607

Customer No.
22850

Tel No: (703) 413-3000
Fax No: (703) 413-2220
EHK:KDP:dmr

I:\ATTY\KDP\24'S\244748US\244748 SUPP PREL AM.DOC